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**Book Review: Women Rough Sleepers in Europe: Homelessness and Victims of Domestic Abuse By Kate Moss and Paramjit Singh Bristol: Policy Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-4473-1709-8, £70.00 (hbk).**  
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**Book review:** Women Rough Sleepers in Europe: Homelessness and victims of domestic abuse by Kate Moss & Paramjit Singh

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Based on data collected from a two-year EU-funded project 'Daphne', *Women Rough Sleepers in Europe* modestly attempts to fill the literary void on research into gendered issues of homelessness, aiming to equip homeless service-providers and challenge policy-makers. Split into seven chapters, the book examines the scope of women rough sleepers in four European case countries: UK, Hungary, Spain and Sweden, and results are presented in a comparative format – with both qualitative and quantitative data, and policy information drawn from small sample sizes within each country.

Following a clarification of the European definition of homelessness, Moss and Singh seek to explore three distinct areas of women's homelessness: the causal mechanisms of homelessness (why?); specific experiences of women on the street (what?); and the impact this has on their access to services (how?). They utilise data from the case countries to demonstrate the homogenous nature of homeless service provision, and the resulting neglect of specific gendered issues. Such issues discussed include women's 'invisible' occupation of public and private spatial boundaries, their societal and legal responsibilities regarding both childcare and 'homemaking', and the prevalence of interpersonal and structural violence within homeless women's lives. This raises many complex and important questions throughout the text which would, at times, benefit from a deeper exploration.

In chapter 3, Moss and Singh include a brief literature review for each case country which suitably frames their subsequent qualitative and quantitative data, and further highlights the need for more research into their chosen topic, due to the overall lack of reported literature in all four European countries. The UK has markedly more literature on homeless women, and this is reflected in both the prevalence, and integrated approach, of service provision and delivery in the UK. In contrast, Hungarian literature fails to recognise the increasingly gendered nature of rough-sleepers, and subsequent approaches to minimise homelessness in the country are failing. Critical of the punitive approach taken by Hungarian authorities, and limited professional knowledge available in the other three EU case countries, Moss and Singh suggest a number of recommendations such as; relationship training for early years children to prevent domestic violence (cited throughout as a primary cause of women's rough sleeping), increased spending on social housing and emergency accommodation, adopting a multi-agency working approach, and specific training for service providers on working with homeless women.

The standout feature of this text is a clear and detailed explanation of the cyclical research process, in chapters one and four. The appendix offers further examples of the research instruments used in the study, such as the interview schedules and key research questions. Moss and Singh highlight the complexities of conducting research with both homeless women and elite service-providers, particularly in a cross-European context. Academic texts rarely provide such a transparent account of the research process, and this is a particularly beneficial feature for postgraduate researchers and early-career academics alike.

Through chapters four, five and six, Moss and Singh present their data and according analysis primarily through direct interview quotes, which illustrate the daily lived experience of both homeless women and service providers. The presentation of quantitative data is less clear, due to the omission of the number of homeless research participants involved in the study, stated at 'less than 80'. That said, through the qualitative data presentation, Moss and

Singh succeed in conveying the personal resilience and strength of homeless women, in the face of adversity and extreme cross-European austerity measures.

Moss and Singh clearly justify the importance of their work, and the imperative of further research into women's homelessness in Europe. Their conclusions that most rough sleeping is a result of domestic violence is an illuminating comment on the prevalence of gendered violence across Europe, and suggests further exploration into feminist theory on homelessness would be beneficial. The book is an excellent overview of the multiple issues faced by women rough sleepers in Europe, and the barriers faced by homeless women and service providers in seeking appropriate, gender-sensitive solutions.